



**NEWS**

***Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas***  
***L.A. County Board of Supervisors, 2<sup>nd</sup> District***

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact:** James Bolden  
213-200-5314

**Supervisor Ridley-Thomas Announces Series of  
Activities to Highlight First 100 Days in Office**

***The Supervisor will accentuate his first 100-days with the theme of  
"Making a Difference: Empowering Communities and Delivering Results"***

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY** – Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, who on December 1, 2008 became the first African American male elected to the five-member Board of Supervisors, announced today a week-long series of activities leading up to the observance of his first 100 days in office.

Accentuating his 100-day theme of "Making a Difference: Empowering Communities and Delivering Results," Supervisor Ridley-Thomas has made strides in addressing key issues of importance to Second District residents, including healthcare, jobs, and public safety.

With over 2.5 million residents, the Second District is the most diverse with respect to ethnicity and socio-economic status. The District includes the cities of Carson, Compton, Culver City, Gardena, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lynwood, as well as portions of the City of Los Angeles and unincorporated sections of south and southwest Los Angeles County.

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas will culminate his 100th day in office on March 10, with an announcement that will lay out his vision for the reopening of Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Center. "There is no single more important priority than the reopening of a new and vastly improved Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Center with quality patient care," Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said.

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At today's board meeting, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas continued his effort to expand the boundaries of participatory democracy in order to transform the Second District, instructing the County's Chief Executive Officer to seek state legislation that would immediately remove the restriction that limits regular meetings to be held in the County seat in the City of Los Angeles. He asked for a report back in two weeks on potential funding for hosting quarterly Board meetings outside of the Los Angeles Civic Center and an analysis of scheduling meetings in the late afternoon and evening hours to maximize public participation.

In another matter before the Board, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas instructed the Chief Executive Officer to report back to at the March 17 meeting with the status of discussions with the University of California on ways to establish full hospital services at MLK Medical Center.

Among the events planned to observe Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' first 100 days include the following:

- **On Wednesday, March 4**, he lead Korean American and African American pastors as well community leaders on an economic development tour of successful faith-based and public/private partnerships at South Los Angeles churches.
- **On Saturday, March 7** he will co-sponsor a summit at Compton College focusing on the escalating number of home foreclosures in Los Angeles County. The workshop is one of many similar efforts by the Supervisor to educate and encourage constituents to take action in their communities.
- **On Sunday, March 8** the Supervisor Ridley-Thomas will attend a worship service at the West Angeles Church of God in Christ, pastored by Bishop Charles E. Blake in South Los Angeles, known for its community and economic development ministries.
- **On Monday, March 9** he will host a luncheon for local media.

"Residents of the Second District have a strong, new champion in Mark Ridley-Thomas," said former State Sen. Sheila Kuehl, one of several community leaders selected by the Supervisor as part of a transition team that has provided him with advice on a variety of issues facing the County. "He brings a thoughtful and exciting energy to this office, as he did to the Los Angeles City Council and to the California Legislature. Mark excels at bringing government to his constituents and empowering them so that, together, they can make a difference."

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West Los Angeles College President Mark W. Rocha, also is a member of the transition team, echoed Kuehl's remarks.

"Mark Ridley-Thomas has brought a new brand of leadership to the Second District," Rocha stated. "As someone who has worked with him on workforce development and creating opportunities for local youths in growing industries, I know that he is brimming with ideas. There is much work to be done, but working with his constituents Mark has already begun implementing his vision."

Prior to taking his oath of office, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas named USC President Steven B. Sample to chair the transition team, which includes Kuehl, Rocha, attorney Connie Rice, California Endowment President Robert Ross, labor leader Maria Elena Durazo, Community of Friends Director Dora Leong Gallo, Coalition for Clean Air Director Martin Schlageter and National Women of Business Owners President Cynthia McClain-Hill.

Just short of his 100 days in office, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas has assembled a staff that reflects his public-private approach to rebuilding Martin Luther King, Jr. Hospital and boosting the economy of the Second District.

**Sylvia Drew Ivie, Chief of Staff**, is a national health specialist and advocate who served as project director of the steering committee on the Future of the King Medical Center.

**Vincent Harris, Senior Policy Advisor**, who has advised Governor Gray Davis and the Barack Obama for President Campaign, brings broad public service experience at the federal, state, and now to the local level in the Second District.

**Dan Rosenfeld, Senior Deputy**, responsible for planning, transportation, environment and economic development, has more than 35 years of experience in private sector development.

**Yolanda Vera, Health Deputy**, has an extensive background in legal services related to health care and was director of a non-profit dedicated to improving the health of low-income communities in the County of Los Angeles.

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**Dorinne Jordan, Budget Deputy**, brings much-needed prior government experience, serving as an analyst in the former County of Los Angeles Chief Administration Office from 2000 to 2005.

**Aurelio Rojas, Communications Director**, was recently a reporter for the Sacramento Bee who covered the Board of Supervisors for United Press International (UPI) and Copley News Service.

**Randi Tahara, Deputy, Board Affairs**, who transitioned from former Second District Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke's office, will coordinate all issues related to the weekly board meetings and agendas.

Among Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' highlights during the first 100 days include the following:

- On his second day on the job, he immediately begin working with Second District stakeholders to begin the process to jumpstart the reopening of Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Center
- Convinced the Board to allocate an additional \$17 million for free and low-cost community clinics in the Second District.
- A standing-room-only audience overwhelmingly embraced the theme of "change" through community empowerment at the Second District's 2009 Annual Budget Summit: ***"We are the Second District, Empowered for Change,"*** held Saturday, January 31 at the Hawthorne Memorial Center.
- Initiated discussion about hosting quarterly Board of Supervisors meetings throughout the five districts
- The successful "Gift for Guns" program -- in which 300 firearms and 2,000 rounds of ammunition were turned into the sheriff's department in the Lennox area in return for gift certificates -- is being replicated countywide.
- The Supervisor also joined Sheriff Lee Baca and members of the Florence-Firestone community to announce the successful culmination of a three-month process to enforce an injunction against the notorious Florencia-13 street gang, which is responsible for countless violent crimes in the area.

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